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DE RUEHEK #1095/01 3031207

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FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1474

INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE

RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE

RUEHB/J/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2724

RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0265

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC

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RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1087

RUEHVN/USMISSION USOSCE 3111

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2497

RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP

RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 165

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BISHKEK 001095

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDRESSEE)

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN (GORKOWSKI)

EO 12958 DECL: 10/29/2018

TAGS PREL, ECON, KG

SUBJECT: CANDID DISCUSSION WITH PRINCE ANDREW ON THE KYRGYZ

ECONOMY AND THE "GREAT GAME"

REF: BISHKEK 1059

BISHKEK 00001095 001.4 OF 004

Classified By: Amb. Tatiana Gfoeller, Reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: On October 28, the Ambassador participated in a two-hour brunch to brief HRH the Duke of York ahead of his meetings with the ¶2. (C) British Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Paul Brummell invited the Ambassador to participate in briefing His Royal Highness Prince And "YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH"

¶3. (C) The discussion was kicked off by the president of the Canadian-run Kumtor mine, who described at length his company's travails of trying ¶4. (C) The Prince reacted with unmitigated patriotic fervor. To his credit, he diligently tried to understand the Kyrgyz point of view. However, "ALL OF THIS SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE FRANCE"

¶5. (C) After having half-heartedly danced around the topic for a bit, only mentioning "personal interests" in pointed fashion, the business re ¶6. (C) The Prince then turned to the Ambassador for an American take on the situation. The Ambassador described American business interests in "YOU HAVE TO CURE YOURSELF OF ANOREXIA"

¶7. (C) With a mock groan, the Duke of York then exclaimed: "My God, what am I supposed to tell these people?!" More seriously, he invited his ¶8. (C) Agreeing with the Ambassador's point about rapid government turnover, they urged him to impress upon his hosts the importance of predicting PLAYING THE GREAT GAME (BY EXTENSION THE AMERICANS TOO)

¶9. (C) Addressing the Ambassador directly, Prince Andrew then turned to regional politics. He stated baldly that "the United Kingdom, Western ¶10. (C) The Prince pounced at the sound of that name. He told the Ambassador that he was a frequent visitor to Central Asia and the Caucasus as ¶11. (C) The Duke then stated that he was very worried about Russia's resurgence in the region. As an example, he cited the recent Central Asia ¶12. (C) Showing that he is an equal-opportunity Great Game player, HRH then turned to the topic of China. He recounted that when he had recent RUDE LANGUAGE A LA BRITISH

¶13. (C) The brunch had already lasted almost twice its allotted time, but the Prince looked like he was just getting started. Having exhausted COMMENT

¶14. (C) COMMENT: Prince Andrew reached out to the Ambassador with cordiality and respect, evidently valuing her insights. However, he reacted GFOELLER